

American Indian art, the Appraisers Association of America, and the Antique Tribal Art Dealers Association (ATADA). He owns and operates Hurst Gallery in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Art of the Pacific Islands CD

A Technical review by Katherine Burton Jones

In the worlds of Information Technology and Education much has happened since 1995. Technologies such as digital imaging, electronic mail, and digital video production that were emerging in the mid to late 1990s have matured and are becoming part of everyday life. The World Wide Web has radically changed our access to information and the audiences of content providers (corporations, educators, museums, etc.) have expanded. We have seen early generations of CD developers whose production costs were astronomical go out of business because there were no viable means of distribution. Now production costs are down and the technologies are widely available.

Educators are using these technologies to place content in the hands of teachers and the general public. The web has some advantages over CD and DVD in terms of the creation of dynamic information sites. CD ROM and DVD, while static, allow the users to "take the information home". Each of these may contain more content than the average web site.

As someone who has been both a content provider and a content developer, I had certain expectations of the technical components of *Art of the Pacific Islands*. Some of these were met but many were not. The section following provides comments on these components.

We viewed this with Windows 95 using a Pentium III computer and due to memory requirements were not able to view some of the video (specifically the *Looking at Art*, Dr Lori Phillips intro movie). The minimum requirements listed for this CD are: "PCs require Windows 95 and 486 processor (or higher) for optimum performance".

All menu screens provide clear options for navigating the CD except a back button is missing on many screens. The search feature is flawed in that if your search finds no records, there is no BACK or other mechanism button to take you to a new search. When an object has several images, the images are not synchronized to the scrolling text. The designers could have used audio as background for educational text especially when showing objects related to ceremonies. Audio is used as a general background medium in other cases. Photo credits and the terms in the glossary could have been done using a hyperlink to the full text or to roll over to show the credit or definition. As they are, it is difficult to navigate from the section you may be viewing to the section with the credits. Rollovers could have been used effectively throughout the CD but were not.

Given the capabilities of the web now, searching, navigating as well as presenting video, audio, and images have surpassed the capabilities used on this CD. These technologies were available at the time the CD was produced. Their incorporation would have made this presentation of material more effective and the use of the CD easier.

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Jones was formerly an Assistant Director of the Harvard Peabody Museum and was Program Director of the Museum Computer Network.

MICHIGANITES TAKE NOTE: The Halsted Gallery, 560 N. Old Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan, is hosting an exhibit of the most recent Easter Island photographs by Michael Kenna. Along with the gallery opening, there will also be a book signing event for Kenna's new black/white photo book titled *Easter Island* (Nazraeli Press, Portland, Oregon, 2001). The book, cloth bound with tipped-in plate on cover and in a cloth slipcase has an introduction by Bill Jay. The book has 72 pages, with 40 duotone plates printed on matt art paper; size 12 x 12 inches. This first edition is limited to 1000 numbered copies. Michael Kenna has photographed Easter Island over a period of two years, creating a powerful new body of work which pays homage to the beauty of the island and the continuing mystery of its past. The phone number for the Halsted Gallery is 248-644-8284.

PUBLICATIONS

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- Le Bulletin du Centre d'Études sur l'Île de Pâques et la Polynésie*, No. 45, 2001. Délégation de la Polynésie française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris, France.
- Eckert, Fred J. The Mysterious Moai. 2001. *The World & I*, Vol. 16 (3):186-193. A Publication of the Washington Times Corporation. This short photo-essay has some interesting color photographs, including one that has been worked over with a computer so that Ahu Vai Ure appears to be sitting in Hangaroa village. Asking such in-depth questions as "Who built the moai?", this article is clearly aimed for those still wishing to believe in extra-terrestrials. And of all the lovely females on Easter Island, the author chose to include a photograph of a Chilean policewoman.
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- Kirch, Patrick V. and Roger C. Green. 2001. *Hawaiki, Ancestral Polynesia. An Essay in Historical Anthropology*. Cambridge Univer-

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- Pitcairn Miscellany*, 2001. For subscriptions, write to the Pitcairn Miscellany, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean, via New Zealand. Subscriptions are US\$10 per annum. This newsletter is posted quarterly. Profits are given to the island school.
- Reilly, Michael. 2001. Sex and War in Ancient Polynesia. *The Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 110(1):31-57.
- Rongorongo Studies. A Forum for Polynesian Philology* 11(1):2001. PO Box 6965, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1, New Zealand. This issue contains "The Maori Grammars and Vocabularies of Thomas Kendall and John Gare Butler", by Phil Parkinson; and "Rapanui-Spanish Bilingualism" by Miki Makihara.
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- Szabo, Katherine. 2001. Molluscan Evidence for Late Holocene Climate Change on Motutapu Island, Hauraki Gulf. *The Journal of the Polynesian Society* 110(1):79-87.
- USP Beat* (News from the University of the South Pacific, Suva) 1(6-7) 2001.
- Weisler, Marshall I. 2001. Precarious Landscapes: Prehistoric Settlement of the Marshall Islands. *Antiquity* 75:31-32.

CONFERENCES

SAA SYMPOSIUM ON RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN RAPANUI

A symposium entitled Archaeology at the Center of the World: Advances in Rapanui Research will be part of the 67th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Denver, March 20 - 24, 2002. For information: thunt@hawaii.edu

ISLANDS OF THE WORLD VII. NEW HORIZONS IN ISLAND STUDIES, JUNE 26-30, 2002. University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Papers are invited for the 7th *Islands of the World* conference, to be hosted by the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI, Canada.

The conference committee will consider proposals for presentations on a broad range of topics related to small islands, including small islands' internal, self-determining activities and their activities in relation to the wider world. Those interested in presenting papers should submit their proposed title and an abstract of not more than 300 words to:

Islands VII Conference Secretariat Institute of Island Studies; University of Prince Edward Island; 550 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI Canada C1A 4P3; Telephone: 902-566-0611 Email: islandsvii@upe.ca <http://www.upei.ca/islandstudies/islandsvii/>

17TH CONGRESS OF THE INDO-PACIFIC PREHISTORY ASSOCIATION, SEPTEMBER 9-15, 2002. Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. Cooperating institutions will be the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, the Department of Anthropology, National Taiwan University, the National Museum of Prehistory, Taitung, and the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Taichung. For further information, contact Dr. Peter Bellwood, IPPA, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, ANU, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia. ippa@anu.edu.au

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC ARTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. This conference will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand in June, 2003. Contact: Dr Karen Stevenson, k.stevenson@fina.canterbury.ac.nz

PACIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY: ASSESSMENTS AND PROSPECTS: An International Conference for the 50th Anniversary of the First Lapita Excavation (July 1952) will be held in Koné - Nouméa, New Caledonia, July 31- August 7, 2002. The conference is organized by the Département Archéologie, Service des Musées et du Patrimoine, Government of New Caledonia and the Department of Archaeology, New Caledonia Museum, BP: 2393, 98846 Nouméa, New Caledonia. (Coordinated by Christophe Sand; sand.smp@gouv.nc In 1952, American Professor E. Gifford with the assistance of R. Shutler Jr. conducted the first modern archaeological program recorded for New Caledonia. In all, 53 prehistoric sites were surveyed and 11 excavated. The work of Gifford and Shutler, published in 1956, had a considerable scientific impact. During the survey of the West Coast, Site 13 near the Foué peninsula, pottery sherds were found that bore dentate-stamped motifs. It was called "Lapita" after the indigenous name heard in the local Haveke language. The importance of this site became apparent when the ¹⁴C dates came back, showing the settlement of Lapita and the manufacture of dentate stamped pots as early as 800 BC, a period far older than the then-supposed date of first human colonization of the Pacific. Since then, interest in the pottery has expanded. Dentate-stamped sherds have now been discovered in more than 100 seashore sites from New Guinea in the northwest to Western Polynesia in the east.

The conference will mark the 50th anniversary of the Lapita discovery. Broad themes include "Works in Process in Pacific Archaeology"; "New methods and Research Topics in Pacific Archaeology"; and "Pacific Archaeology: Assessments." Tours to the Lapita sites are included in the program.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

WHAT'S NEW AT THE EIF OFFICE

Greetings from the Easter Island Foundation office in Baywood Park! Our latest publication, *Te Moana Nui. Exploring the Lost Isles of the South Pacific* is now available for \$25. It is a lovely book with chapters describing some of the more well-known islands of the Pacific, along with places that few have the opportunity to visit, such as Rai'vavae, Rapa Iti,